

## Rededication celebrates branch's improvements

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The soft, classy sounds of live chamber music seemed to underscore Sunday's rededication of the newly updated, renovated Farmington branch of the Farmington Community Library.

The music, performed by a string quartet led by Kay Deluca, a Farmington Public Schools teacher, enhanced attendees' appreciation for what had been accomplished and heightened their anticipation of what's to come.

"It's wonderful," said Marian Karvonen of Farmington in discussing the brighter, warmer, more high-tech but still user-friendly library.

"I'm flabbergasted by all the computers," added the volunteer, who uses one of them weekly to produce the library's community calendar.

Karvonen brought along her friend, Esther Johnson, a Hills resident and regular at the Hills branch on 12 Mile Road. Johnson said that after Sunday's visit she's "eager to see" the Hills branch similarly transformed.

The two were among the estimated 400 on hand Sunday to enjoy music by the string quartet and celebrate the \$1.4 million refurbishment and upgrading of the 24-year-old downtown branch of the Farmington Community Library.

Meanwhile, the \$11.2 million expansion and remodeling of the larger, 27-year-old Hills main branch is scheduled to begin next spring and be completed in early 2002.

Both projects were funded by the two cities' voters, who passed a millage increase in August 1998.

That fact didn't escape Sunday's speakers.

Calling Farmington "a really supportive community, both the city itself and the administration," Robert Plummer, library board president, told the crowd it was "people like you who gave all that support and got the millage passed that enabled the remodeling."

busier than 90 percent of the suburban libraries" in metro Detroit.

Farmington handles about 35 percent of the more than one million books and audio and video tapes loaned by both branches per year, Bush said.

"This is truly an outstanding library to have (and) a very key component to our community," she said.

"I thought this day would never get here," joked Papai.

Renovations included upgrading the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning systems and restrooms; improving lighting; installing energy-saving thermal-pane windows and non-glass and new carpeting; repolishing and refinishing furniture plus installing new public service desks, computer tables and parents' seating in the children's department.

### New wiring

Technological enhancements included improved Internet access; a computer training center focusing on information usage resources; new wiring enabling library patrons to access the Internet via their own laptops; and a re-engineered checkpoint security system.

The Farmington checkpoint is only the third such in the country. It aims at improving staff efficiency while upgrading inventory and materials management.

And patrons may now check out their own materials.

That wasn't lost on 8-1/2-year-old Marlene Azar of Livonia, who heartily approved.

Brother Michael, 7, said he loved the sculptured, realistic-looking trees at the entrance to the children's room.

But it was their mother, Lydia, who has been bringing her children to Farmington for roughly five years, who paid the library the ultimate compliment.

Citing both the branch's attractiveness and the continuing friendliness and helpfulness of its staff, she stated, "I like it better than Livonia."

### 'Never wavering'

Hills Councilman Jonathan Grant, who represented outgoing Mayor Aldo Vagnozzi at the ceremony, praised the Farmington-branch supporters for "never wavering and not quitting until we...put together (a bill) that voters could get behind."

Grant also lauded Library Director Beverly Papai for her "high standards" and unwavering support. "We're tremendously fortunate to have her," he said.

The Farmington renovation will "move us well into the new millennium, technology-wise as well as overall, with the new look we've given it," Plummer said.

"We'll be hard-pressed to beat this," he added.

Farmington Mayor Mary Bush, who, like Papai, suffered through two previous unsuccessful attempts to get voters to approve library modernization, noted the Farmington branch "is

**Keyed up:** Library staffer Maureen Baugh teaches Sarah Schneider how to check out books all by herself.

## Panel to explore recruiting, training diverse work force at Nov. 18 forum

The Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council invites all to attend its community forum on recruiting and training a diverse work force on Thursday, Nov. 18.

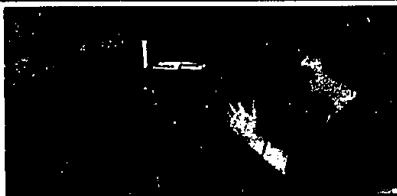
The forum will begin at 8 a.m. and be held in Room 1 at the Farmington Training Center, 33000 Thomas Street in downtown Farmington. Co-sponsoring the forum is the Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. There is no admission fee for this event.

The forum will feature a panel of community area large and small companies who will pro-

vide their viewpoints regarding this topic. Some of the companies participating include The Gale Group, Akebono, Oakland County Community Mental Health and Shalimar Indian Restaurant.

In the late 1980s, the Farmington/Farmington Hills Multicultural/Multiracial Community Council began meeting informally as a group of parents, police, school and city officials to discuss religious, race and cultural differences.

Since early 1990, representatives from Farmington Public Schools, students, Farmington



Return thanks: Library director Bev Papai thanks all of those who helped make the renovations possible.



A hoot of a hello: Chelsea Carbury met the library owl mascot at the Farmington Branch Library rededication on Sunday.



STAFF PHOTOS BY BOB BASKIN

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## Hazardous waste drop-off day planned

Residents in Farmington and Farmington Hills will have a regional Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Day 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 13 at the Novi Department of Public Works.

There will be a 10-gallon limit per car. Items that will not be accepted include motor oil, car batteries, latex paint, and explosives. RRRASOC has local recycling outlets and alternative disposal guidelines for these items.

RRRASOC is encouraging residents to bring to the event for proper disposal items such as oil-based paint, pesticides, herbicides, cleaners, fluorescent light bulbs and other common household

chemicals from their homes, garages and workshops.

Residents of the participating communities will be required to show proof of residency at the entrance of the Novi DPW, which is located on DelWal Drive. DelWal goes north off of 11 Mile Road, between Meadowbrook and Town Center. Participants should follow the recycling center signs from the Grand River/Meadowbrook and Grand River/Town Center intersections to 11 Mile and then DelWal.

For more information, call Heidi Jo Wayco, RRRASOC's recycling coordinator, 248-208-2270.